

Nicaragua *alumni*

Alumni Spotlight

Together for a Healthier Environment

A Youth Ambassadors 2010 project

As part of their visit to the U.S. on the Youth Ambassadors Program in 2010, Rolando Chavarria and Jordana Rodriguez were impressed with the cleanliness of the places they visited. "It's incredible how people have a culture of no littering in the streets in the U.S." Rolando said when he came back from his U.S. trip.

That impression led to the creation of a project in the rural community of Dolores in Carazo.

The project's name is "Together for a Healthier Environment." This project aims to increase awareness about the effects of littering to their classmates and they hope to multiply the effect in the community. They put into motion a set of action plans that led to the involvement of the high school principal and full support of the school. They gave educational talks to the sophomore, junior and senior classes; their classmates made environmental signs around the school, and an ecological mural was displayed in the main hall to educate about

littering and compost.

As a result of their efforts, Rolando and Jordana encouraged the idea of their classmates to form two different groups: one to work in the local high school and another to work in the local primary school.

The first group planted trees around the school, created special trash cans to dispose properly of litter and created a compost in the school's backyard.

The second group gave talks to primary kids. They found themselves resorting to creative ways to teach kids about organic and non-organic waste: pictures, easy words and lots of coloring.



The high school group explains about the ecological mural in the main hall of their school.

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STATE ALUMNI *Register Now!*

Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF): *First-Round Ratings Deadline*

The Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) closed Sunday, March 13, with 682 proposals submitted!

All projects that qualified (i.e., had 10 alumni team members) were distributed to be rated by the Office of Alumni Affairs, regional bureaus and the relevant U.S. missions.

Final ratings were due by close-of-business Thursday, March 30.

Finalists are announced as of Monday, April 4. All submitted projects are available on State Alumni at: <https://alumni.state.gov/aeif2011>



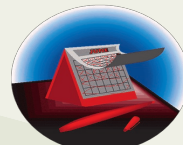
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The little kids were so enthusiastic that they accompanied the older kids to plant trees and also had a chance to do their own environmental signs.

Recently, representatives from Georgetown University (who manage the YA's program for the U.S. State Department) joined U.S. Embassy staff to visit the YAs project in Carazo. It was impressive to see how much our alumni have been working, not just putting their ideas

into motion, but also serving as mentors to their classmates. Several told about how challenging it is to put into practice what they learned, since often their classmates make fun of what they do. But they keep a smile in their faces because they are learning of a better way to live and help the world.

One student expressed how now she knows about composting

and created her own compost area at home and teaching her family about proper disposal of litter.

All of them thanked Rolando and Jordana for the support they continue to offer.

KUDOS TO ROLANDO AND JORDANA!



Local primary kid shows off his sign that reads *Let's take care of our trees*

What's going on...

Recent Alumni News

- * ***¡Estás despedido! La venganza de un teacher (Your are fired! A teacher's revenge-March 2010)***
Fulbright Alumnus, Wilbert Salgado, was interviewed by local newspaper El Nuevo Diario as part of a raising generation of entrepreneurs. The article tells about his experience in the English language arena, struggling to pass on his knowledge, being fired and how he founded Global English School. Please click on the link to read the article <http://www.end.com.ni/especiales/95701>
- * ***Youth Video Conference: Civic Participation ” (March 2010)***
On March 23, US Embassy Managua co-hosted a video-conference event with the US Embassy in Quito and US Consulate Guayaquil for young leaders in civil society organizations. Over 50 participants, several SUSI and IVLPs Alumni, from more than twenty organizations took part in the conference to exchange ideas on the challenges they face while participating in their countries' civil society organizations. The youth leaders encouraged each other to continue working to become the leaders of positive change and political/cultural transformation.
- * ***Congratulations to Melida Madrigal! She was recently appointed Assistant Director in her job at BECA.org (March 2010)***



Message from Melida:

“Things continue to move forward here in Nicaragua with BECA.org.

We opened bank accounts in the Central American Bank (BAC) for the scholars. We consider this to be an important step forward. A bank account in Nicaragua is not easy to get and serves as a great personal reference.

We also opened Curso Uno BECA.org in Masaya with 15 new students from different municipalities of Masaya. This group is very important because they are going to be pioneers with the Brigade BECA.org, which is a full-time community service component lasting 3 months (after the first three months in the lab learning computer skills).

Thanks for helping us encourage a new, different generation of Nicaraguans!

Earth Day Network

A Billion Acts of Green®

With many millions of actions to date, Earth Day Network's **A Billion Acts of Green®** campaign – the largest environmental service campaign in the world – is steadily building commitments by individuals, organizations, corporations, and governments in honor of Earth Day.

A Billion Acts of Green® inspires and rewards both simple individual acts and larger organizational initiatives that further the goal of measurably reducing carbon emissions and supporting sustainability.

The goal is to register one billion actions in advance of the global Earth Summit in Rio in 2012.

The **A Billion Acts of Green®** website quantifies acts of green through an easy-to-use online registration tool where communities and organizers can register Earth Day events and community climate meetings, as well as tree plantings, large-scale light bulb changes and workplace renewable energy retrofits. Simple individual gestures like riding a bike instead of driving and washing laundry in cold water may also be recorded.

Billion Acts of Green Sweepstakes: Earth Day Network's sweepstakes, launched with underwriting support from SCA Tissue North America, which is a global leader in forest stewardship (as ranked by Ethical Investment Research Services in conjunction with The Independent, a U.K. newspaper), ended on December 31, 2010, with the two smart®fortwo car winners announced in early January. But A Billion Acts of Green® continues! Pledge your Act of Green here!

Some notable contributions to **A Billion Acts of Green®**:

- * School Greenings: Earth Day Network greened 40 schools globally for Earth Day 2010. From solar panels to school gardens, Earth Day Network

worked with schools to significantly cut their carbon emissions.

- * Ocean Conservancy: More than 400,000 green acts came from the Ocean Conservancy, following a massive beach and riverside clean-up coast to coast.
- * Siemens: As part of their 2010 corporate sponsorship, employees of Siemens completed 789,041 green acts, including important work in Haiti and donations of thousands of generators, flashlights and skyhydrants, which extract drinking water from the atmosphere.
- * Earth Hour: Millions participated in Earth Hour on March 26, 2010. Each person who turned off their lights contributed a green act.
- * 200 Catholic Congregations contributed 100,000 acts of green through local service projects.
- * Earth Day Philippines: Through massive tree plantings, water projects, river clean-ups, recycling drives and school greenings, Earth Day Philippines contributed over 12 million green acts.
- * Avatar Home Tree Initiative: Through a partnership with Twentieth Century Fox and the Avatar & Blu Ray DVD, Earth Day Network and 16 partners planted 1,006,639 trees in 16 countries, directly involving over 31,000 individuals.
- * In Afghanistan, Earth Day Network worked with more than 40 government and village leaders across the country in environmental sustainability practices including recycling programs and the need for clean water and alternative energy.

In addition to organizing events that can be registered for credit toward the Billion Acts of Green, you can also register individually on the Earth Day website at <http://act.earthday.org> and *make your pledge!*

For more information on this initiative visit
<http://act.earthday.org>



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Challenge: Leaky faucets that drip at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons of water each year.

Solution: If you're unsure whether you have a leak, read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly

the same, you probably have a leak.

Challenge: A leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons of water every day.

Solution: To tell if your toilet has a leak, place a drop of food coloring in the tank; if the color shows in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak.

Challenge: The average bathroom faucet flows at a rate of two gallons per minute.

Solution: Turning off the tap while brushing your teeth in the morning and at bedtime can save up to 8 gallons of water per day, which equals 240 gallons a month!

For more tips visit

http://www.epa.gov/watersense/about_us/index.html



Photo Gallery



UGRAD Alumnus, Byron Gutierrez volunteering during his stay at California State University



SUSI Alumni 2010, Yoctan Vilchez, Hazel Lopez and Arquimedes Hernandez



UGRAD Alumnus, Miguel Campos during his stay at North Dakota State University

Calendar of Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Scholarship programs Submission due: Fulbright Programs	5	6 VO NO TIRAS BASURA U.S. Diplomat Amy Engleburger 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at CNN ALKE Carretera a Masaya 1C Abajo 1/2C al Sur	7	8 Scholarship programs Submission due: TEA 2011 Access for Teacher Access for Students	9
10 Luis Alberto Ambroggio Poetry workshops April 10-15, 2011	11	12 U.S. Diplomat Will Cobb at UAM U.S. Foreign Policy	13 3° Feria de Becas De Postgrado 2011 U.S. Embassy to present at 3:00 p.m.	14 U.S. Diplomat Dan Carroll at UAM Human Rights	15	16
17	18 Happy Easter Week!	19	20	21 Embassy Closed	22 Earth Day Embassy Closed	23
24	25 World Intellectual Property Day	26	27 Screening "Illicit: The Dark Trade" Discussion with Maureen Murray CNN at 6 pm	28	29 UPCOMING May 3 Freelance Writer and Blogger James Bosworth World Press Freedom Day AT CNN	30

We want to hear from you!

This is YOUR newsletter, we welcome suggestions and questions.
Write to our office to include your articles, your efforts, your photos...

Contact
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**VISIT OUR
WEBSITE**
Exchange
Opportunities



Happening NOW!

⇒ **Access English Program**
Deadline: April 8, 2011

⇒ **Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA)**
Deadline: April 8, 2010

Information and application available on line.

Visit us to find out more!
http://spanish.nicaragua.usembassy.gov/programa_becas.html

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Also important information about visas and other services.

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